Lily, Marguerite, Baby's Breath

By Katakura Ako

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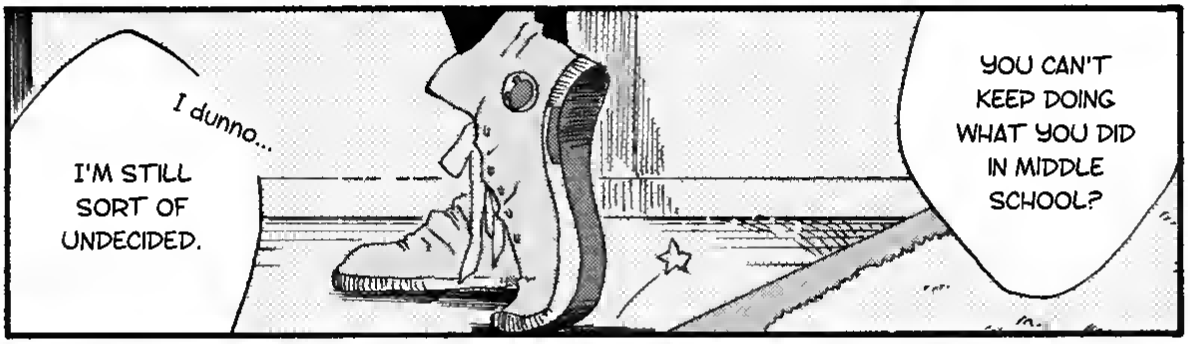
リリー・マルガリーテとかすみ草

Lily, Marguerite, Baby's Breath

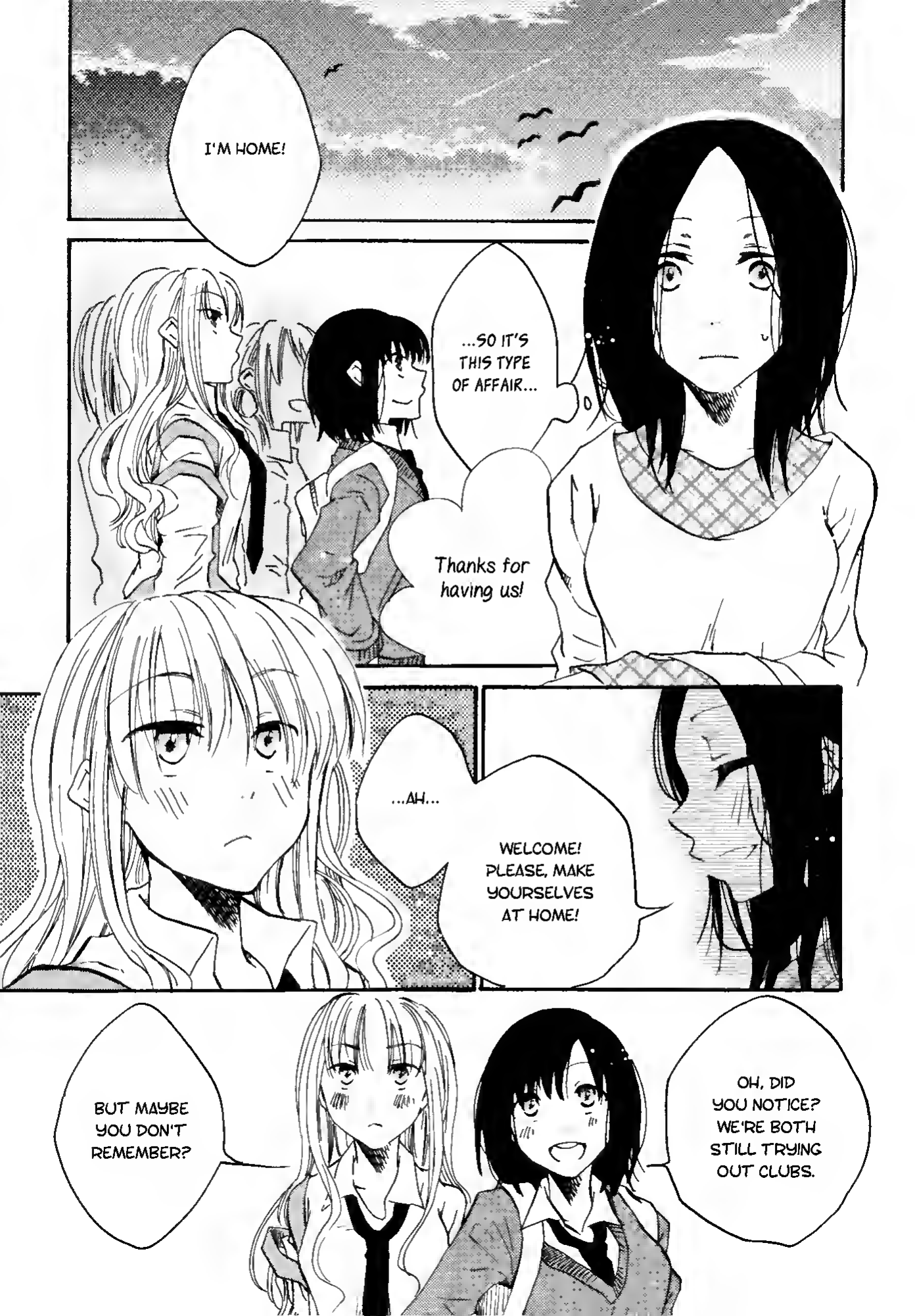
By Katakura Ako

YUKIKO! YOU HAVEN'T LEFT YET?
I'M ON MY WAY. I'LL BE FINE.
Satomi
HONESTLY! MORNING AFTER MORNING, THERE'S ALWAYS SUCH A RUSH...
OH, IS IT TIME ALREADY? GUESS I SHOULD BE HEADING OUT, TOO.
THANKS FOR THE LUNCH!
WISK
SURE AM CUTTING IT CLOSE...
SCOOT
OH- OF COURSE.

tap
tap
OH, RIGHT.
I HAVE YOUR TRACKSUIT HERE...
AH... YUKIKO, WAIT A SECOND.

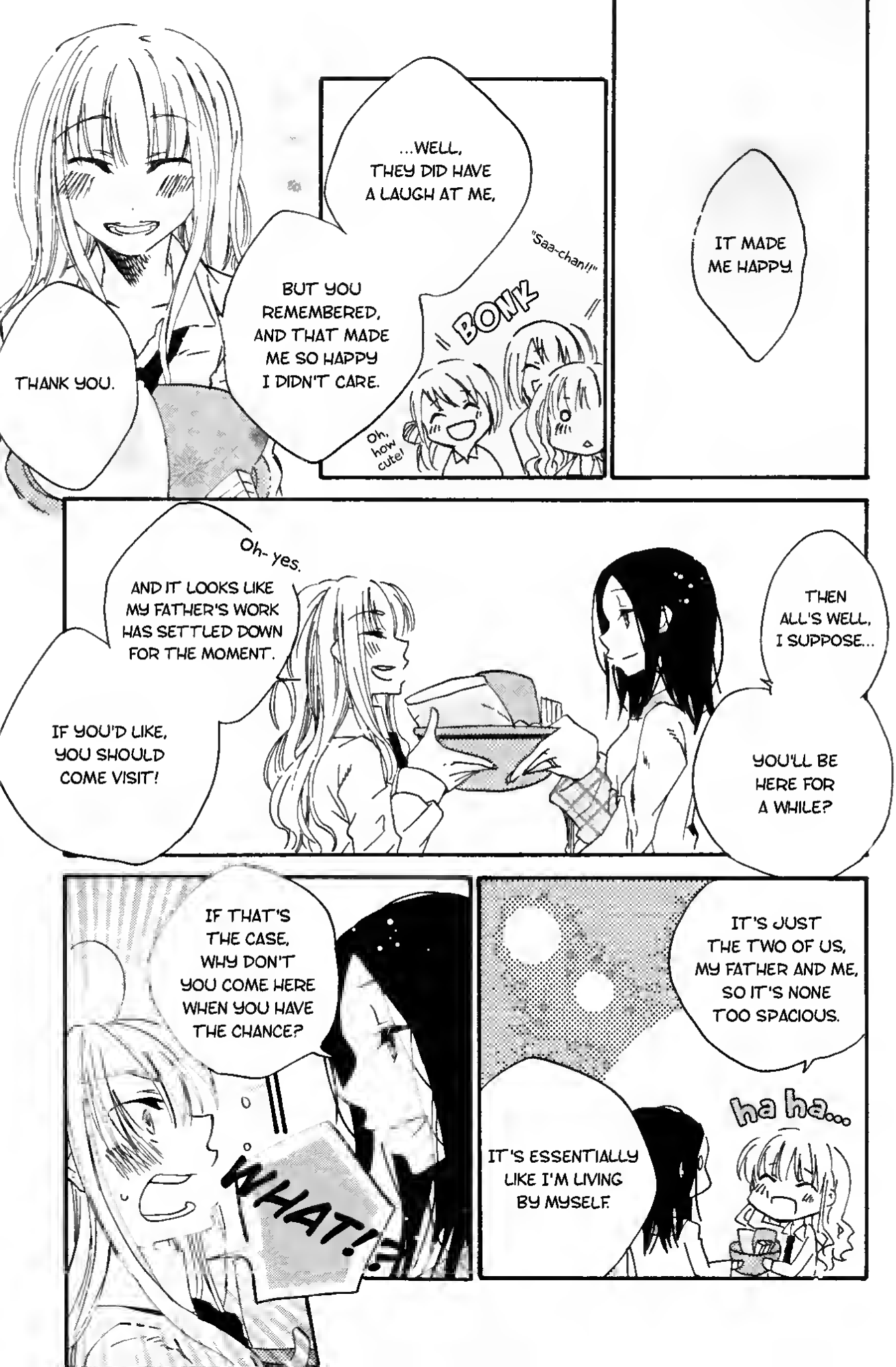

I dunno...
I'M STILL SORT OF UNDECIDED.
YOU CAN'T KEEP DOING WHAT YOU DID IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?

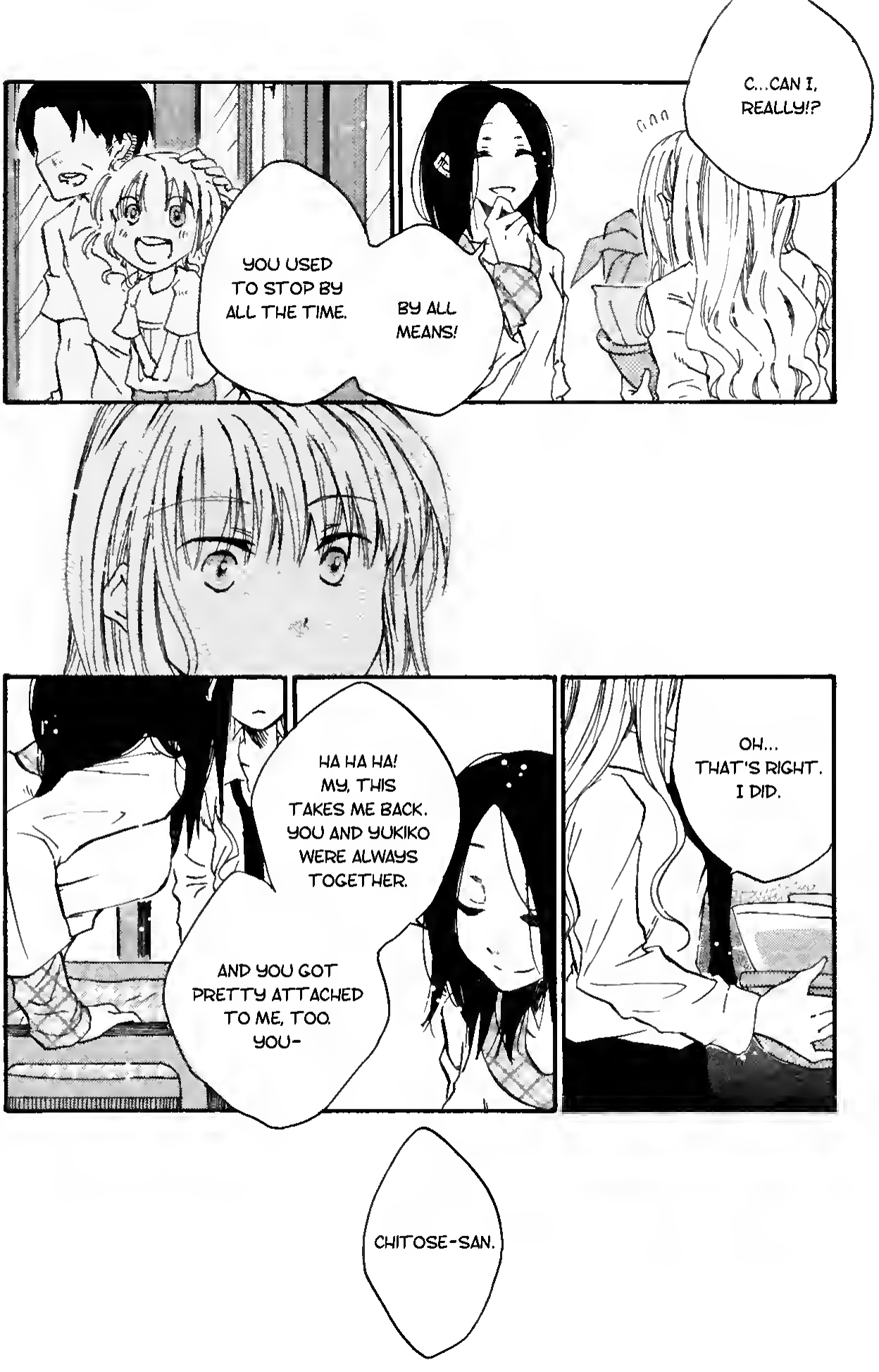
WHAT- YOU MEAN...?
ALRIGHT, I'M OFF!
I THINK EVERYONE'S COMING OVER AFTER SCHOOL TO TALK ABOUT IT.
BUT I'M PICKING A CLUB TODAY.
And thanks for the tracksuit.

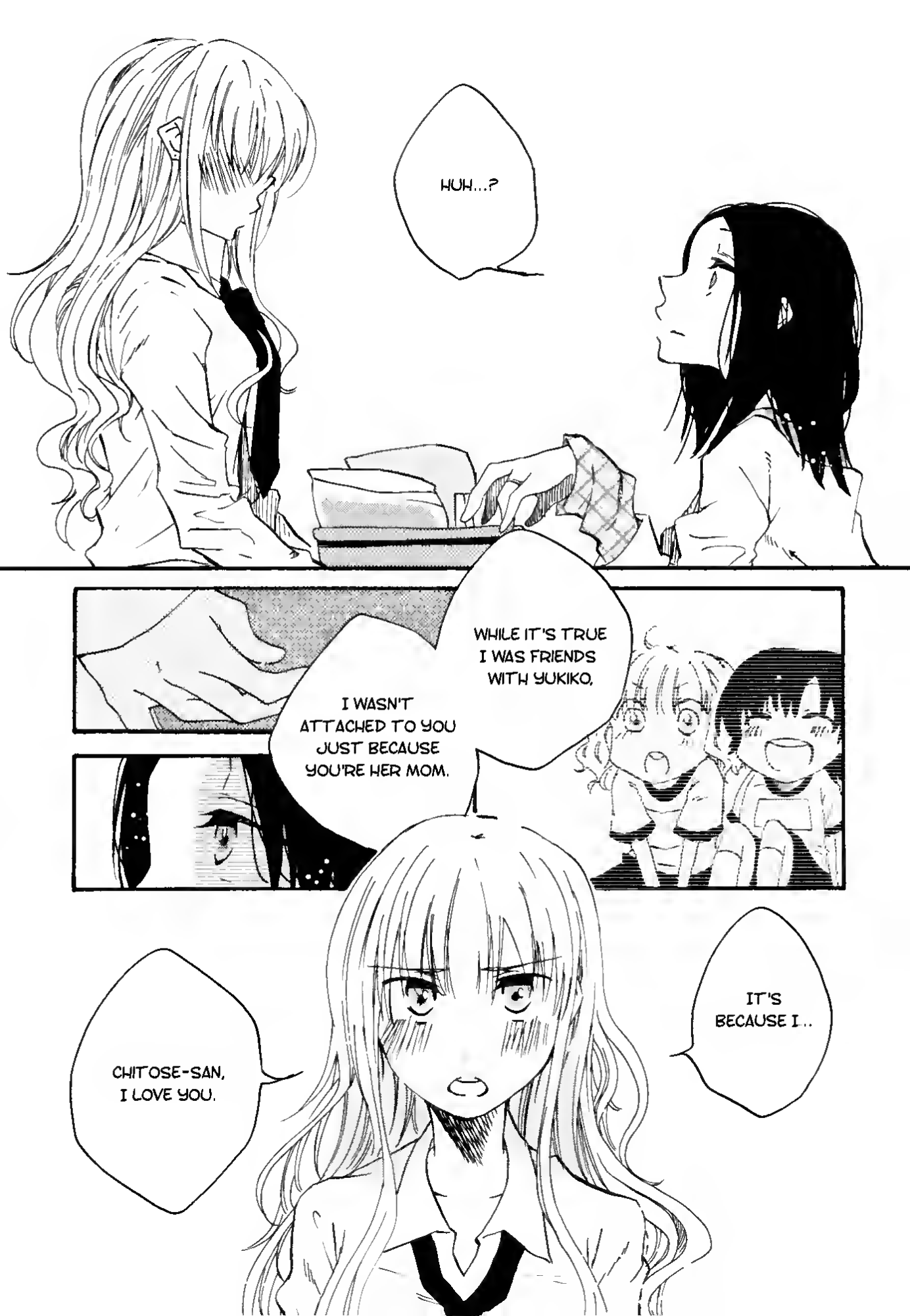

I'M HOME!
...SO IT'S THIS TYPE OF AFFAIR...
Thanks for having us!
...AH...
WELCOME! PLEASE, MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME!
BUT MAYBE YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
OH, DID YOU NOTICE? WE'RE BOTH STILL TRYING OUT CLUBS.

OOISO SAYURI.
...OH-
SAA-CHAN?
DO YOU HAVE A GOOD GRIP ON IT, YUKIKO?
YEAH.
COME BACK TO GET THE REST.
SURE THING.
I'LL HELP
KA-CHAK

OKAY, THEN, BRING THOSE SNACKS UP.
GOT IT.
I'LL MEET YOU BACK AT THE ROOM.
OKAY! I'LL BE TAKING THESE
GASP
...OH!
MY APOLOGIES- HERE YOU GO
I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.
...AND
Saa-chan?
THAT NICKNAME-

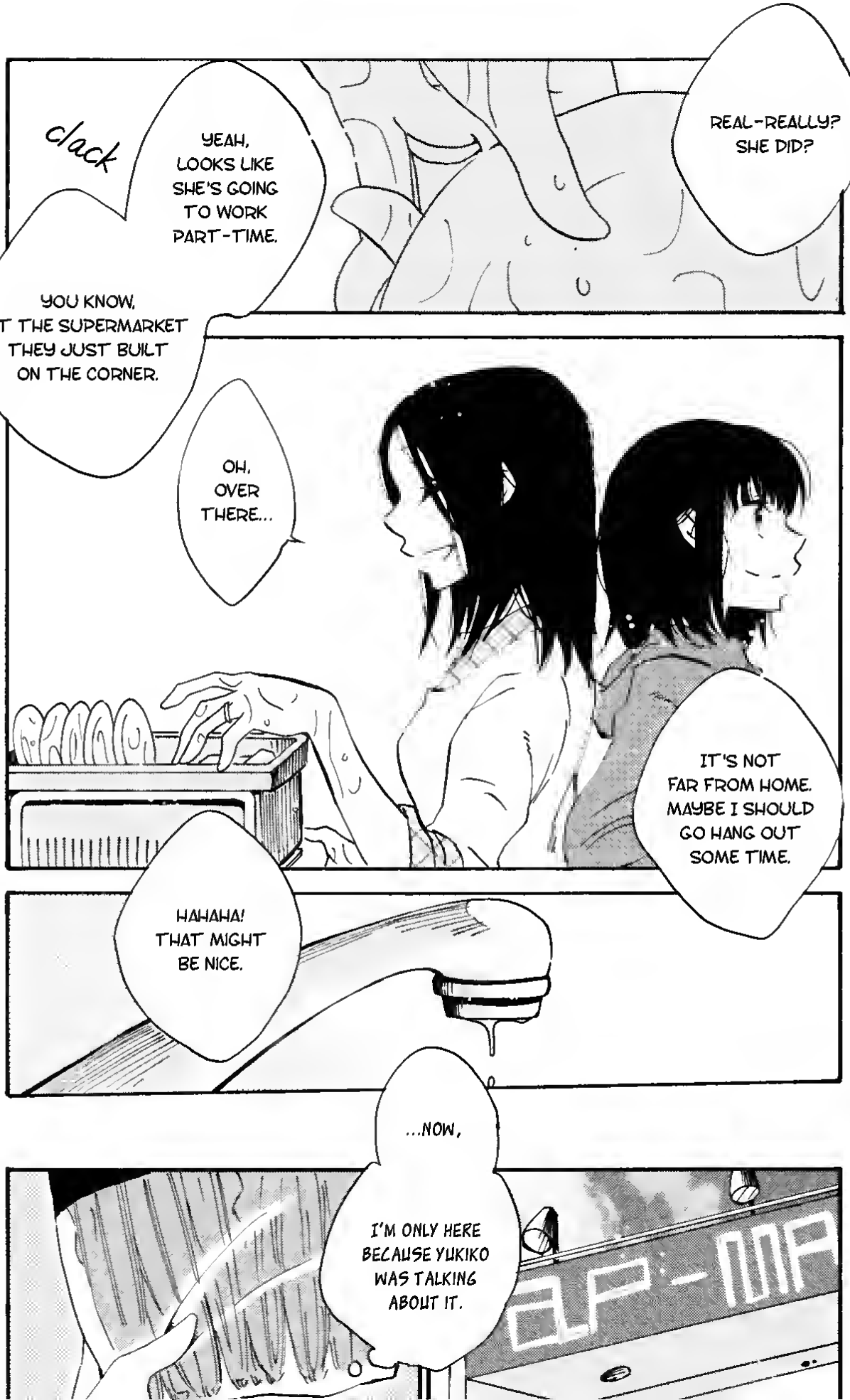

IT MADE ME HAPPY.
...WELL, THEY DID HAVE A LAUGH AT ME,
"Saa-chan!!"
BONZ
Oh, how cute!
BUT YOU REMEMBERED, AND THAT MADE ME SO HAPPY I DIDN'T CARE.
THANK YOU.
THEN ALL'S WELL, I SUPPOSE...
Oh- yes.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE MY FATHER'S WORK HAS SETTLED DOWN FOR THE MOMENT.
IF YOU'D LIKE, YOU SHOULD COME VISIT!
YOU'LL BE HERE FOR A WHILE?
IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, MY FATHER AND ME, SO IT'S NONE TOO SPACIOUS.
ha ha...
IT'S ESSENTIALLY LIKE I'M LIVING BY MYSELF.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY DON'T YOU COME HERE WHEN YOU HAVE THE CHANCE?
WHAT!

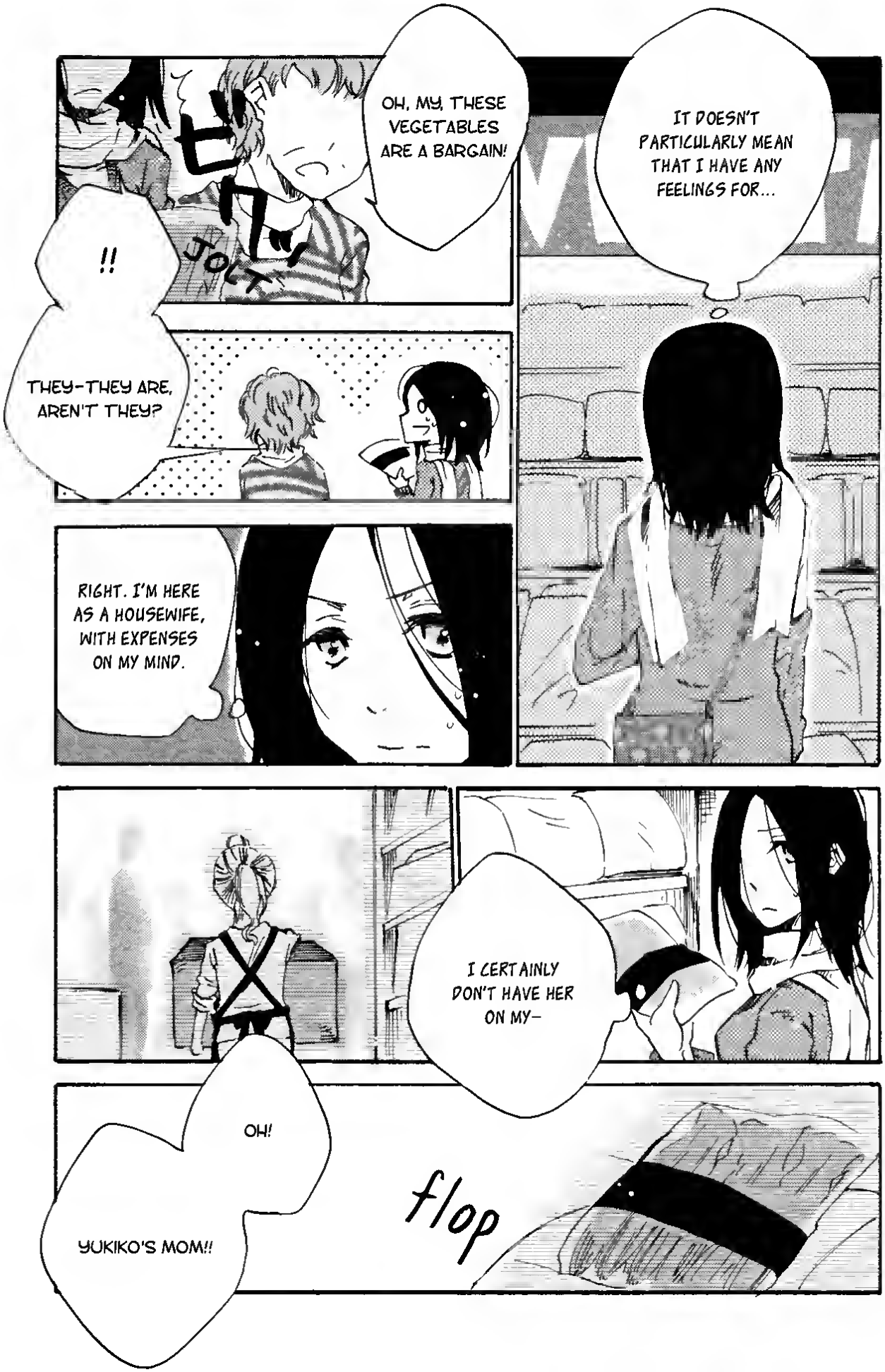

C...CAN I, REALLY!?
YOU USED TO STOP BY ALL THE TIME.
BY ALL MEANS!
HA HA HA! MY, THIS TAKES ME BACK. YOU AND YUKIKO WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER.
AND YOU GOT PRETTY ATTACHED TO ME, TOO. YOU-
OH... THAT'S RIGHT. I DID.
CHITOSE-SAN.

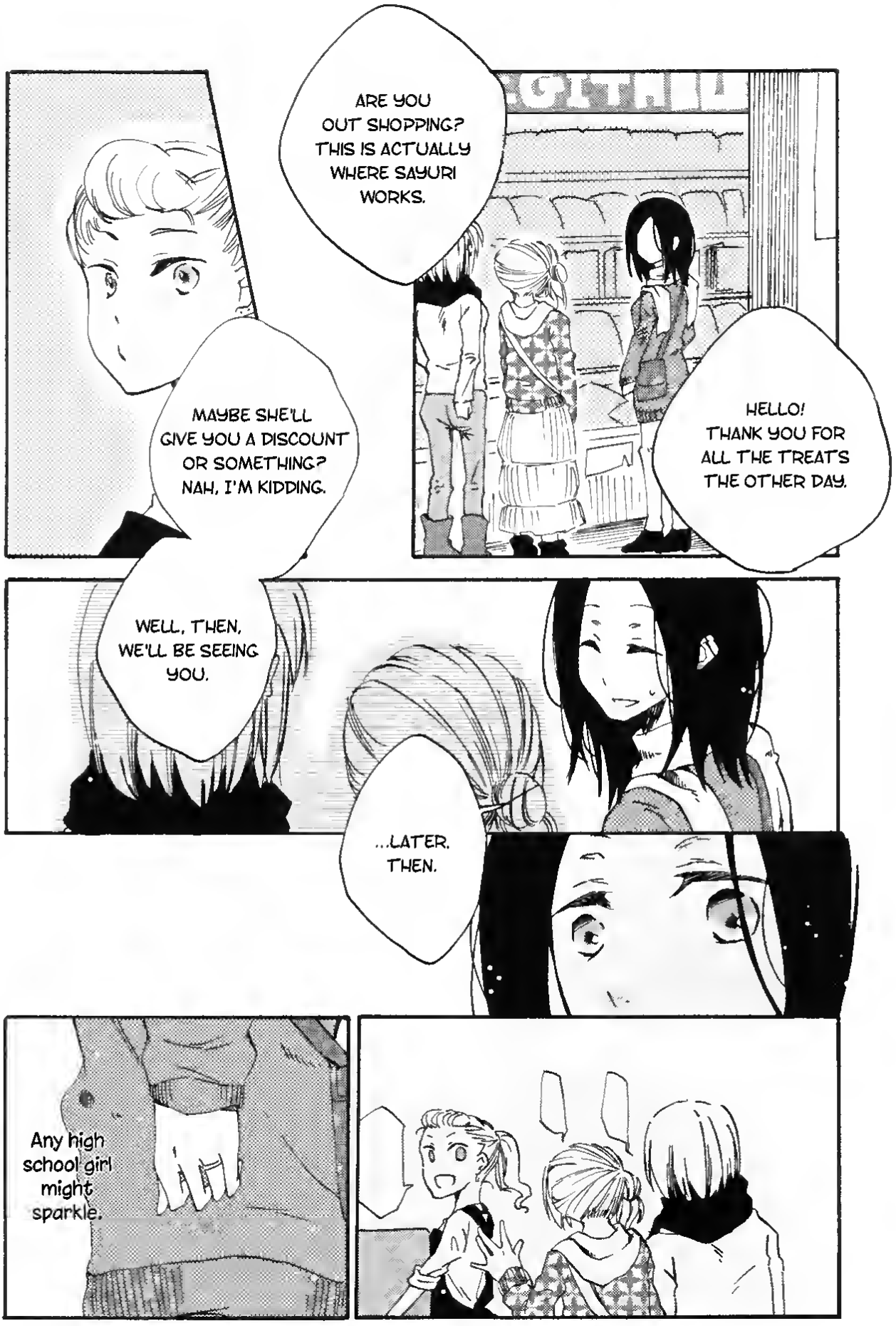

HUH...?
WHILE IT'S TRUE I WAS FRIENDS WITH YUKIKO,
I WASN'T ATTACHED TO YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE HER MOM.
IT'S BECAUSE I..
CHITOSE-SAN, I LOVE YOU.

...HUH?
SO, YOU KNOW,
IN THE END, EVERYONE SAYS THEY'RE GOING INTO CULTURAL CLUBS.
LOOKS LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOING OUT FOR SPORTS
f
s
h
h

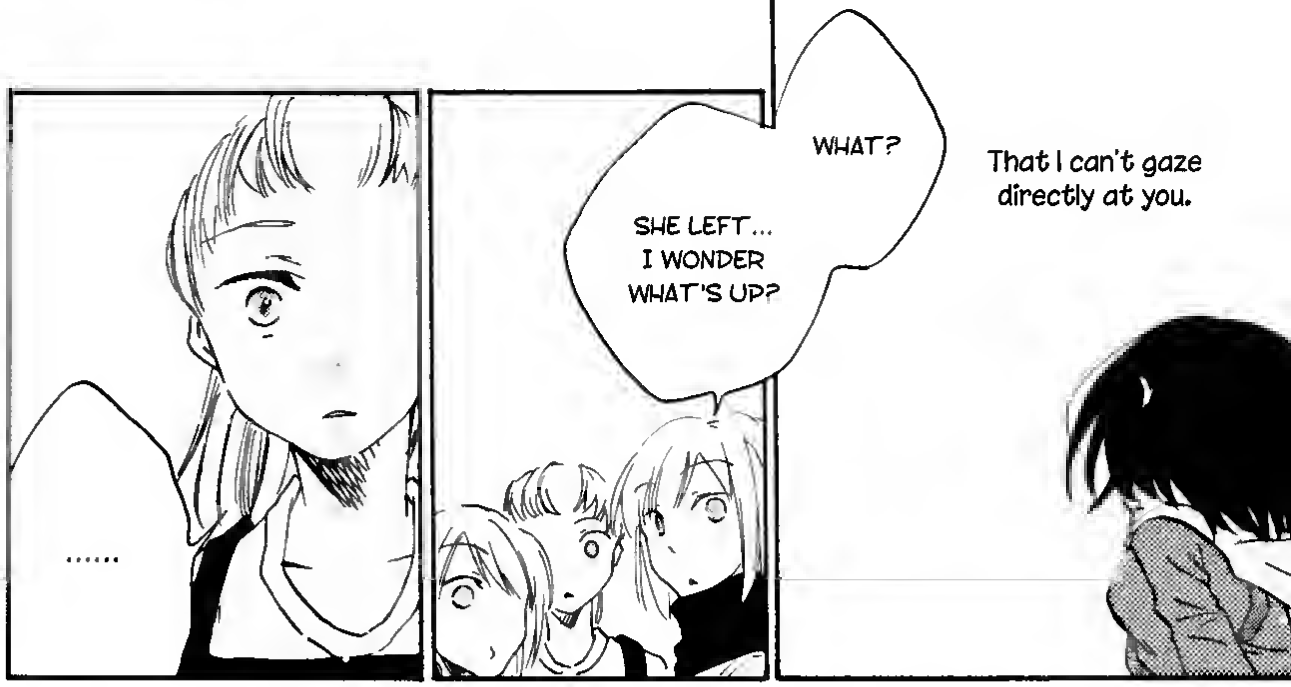
WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THAT LOOK? YES, I'M LISTENING.
That's cold!
REEEEALLY?
ARE YOU LISTENING?
EVERYONE BESIDES YOU IS JOINING A CULTURAL CLUB, RIGHT?
I'M SURE THEY ALL JUST HAVE DIFFERENT INTERESTS. AS LONG AS YOU CAN STILL SPEND TIME WITH THEM, WHAT'S THE HARM?
AFTER ALL, YOU DID GET TO REUNITE WITH SAA- WITH SAYURI-CHAN.
OH, YEAH, SAYURI...
SHE SAID SHE WASN'T JOINING ANY CLUBS.


clack
YEAH, LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOING TO WORK PART-TIME.
REAL-REALLY? SHE DID?
YOU KNOW, AT THE SUPERMARKET THEY JUST BUILT ON THE CORNER.
OH, OVER THERE...
IT'S NOT FAR FROM HOME. MAYBE I SHOULD GO HANG OUT SOME TIME.
HAHAHA! THAT MIGHT BE NICE.
...NOW,
I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE YUKIKO WAS TALKING ABOUT IT.


OH, MY, THESE VEGETABLES ARE A BARGAIN!
JOLT
!!
THEY-THEY ARE, AREN'T THEY?
IT DOESN'T PARTICULARLY MEAN THAT I HAVE ANY FEELINGS FOR...
RIGHT. I'M HERE AS A HOUSEWIFE, WITH EXPENSES ON MY MIND.
I CERTAINLY DON'T HAVE HER ON MY-
OH!
YUKIKO'S MOM!!
flop


ARE YOU OUT SHOPPING? THIS IS ACTUALLY WHERE SAYURI WORKS.
MAYBE SHE'LL GIVE YOU A DISCOUNT OR SOMETHING? NAH, I'M KIDDING.
HELLO! THANK YOU FOR ALL THE TREATS THE OTHER DAY.
WELL, THEN, WE'LL BE SEEING YOU.
...LATER. THEN.
Any high school girl might sparkle.

Mama!
Hey, Mom.
I am one who who lost her family name upon marriage
and lost even her given name upon having children.
Mrs. Satomi
Yukiko's mom
Chitose-san.
You reminded me of my name once again.
You're the girl
who dazzles, who shines brighter than anyone...

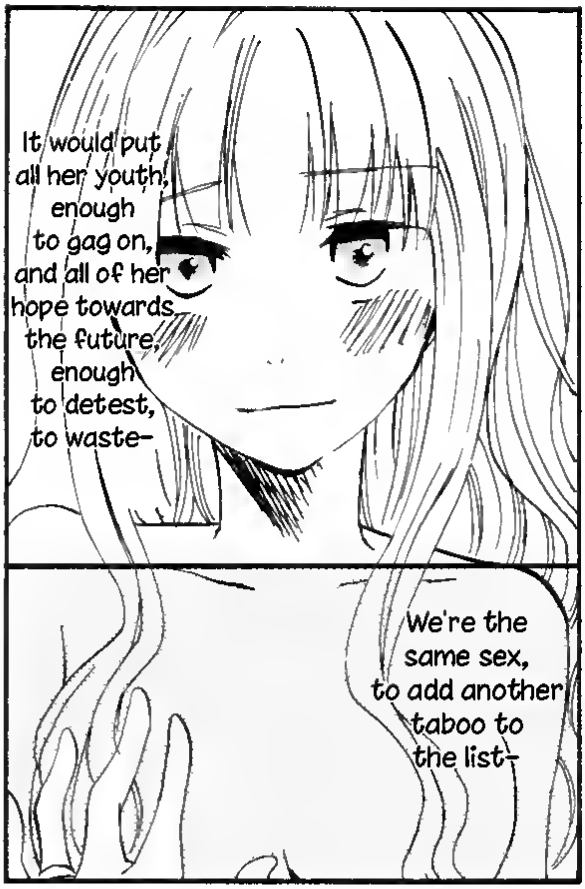

.....
WHAT?
SHE LEFT... I WONDER WHAT'S UP?
That I can't gaze directly at you.

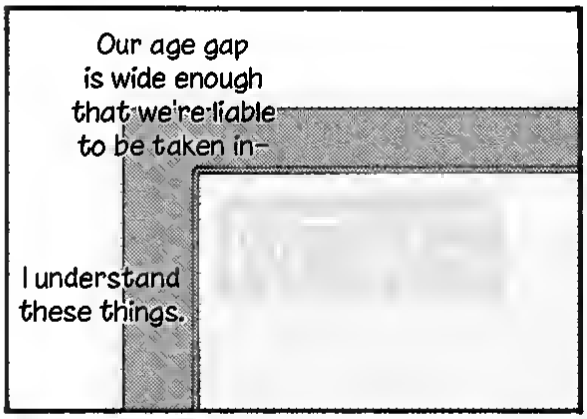
Satomi
beep
...I'M HOME.

OH...
YES, A BIT.
YOU'RE BACK AWFULLY SOON.
.....?
No matter what she does, she looks good!
Really cute! Or more like, pretty
Really? It's not something else?
YES, WELL... SHE SEEMED BUSY.
DID YOU SEE SAYURI?
I THINK SHE REALLY LIKES YOU, MOM. SHE WAS BEAMING, YOU KNOW?
WHOA!!
THAT TIME ALREADY!!
I'D BETTER GET GOING.
It is now two o'clock— time for the news.

YOU'RE NOT EMBARRASSED, WEARING SOMETHING SO SHORT?
WHAT?
MAN, WHAT AN OLD PERSON THING TO SAY!
I'M IN MY TEENS, I'M FINE!
I'M OFF!
Next up, 46-year-old juku instructor OOOO..
Who performed obscene acts upon a 16-year-old student under the guise of individual tutoring has been—

SPLOOSH
clack
I HAVE TO GATHER MY COMPOSURE.
...I UNDERSTAND
THAT I'M MARRIED.
I'M A WOMAN WHO'S BIRTHED A CHILD,
A CHILD WHO'S OLD ENOUGH TO THINK FOR HER HERSELF.


It would put all her youth, enough to gag on, and all of her hope towards the future, enough to detest, to waste-
We're the same sex, to add another taboo to the list-

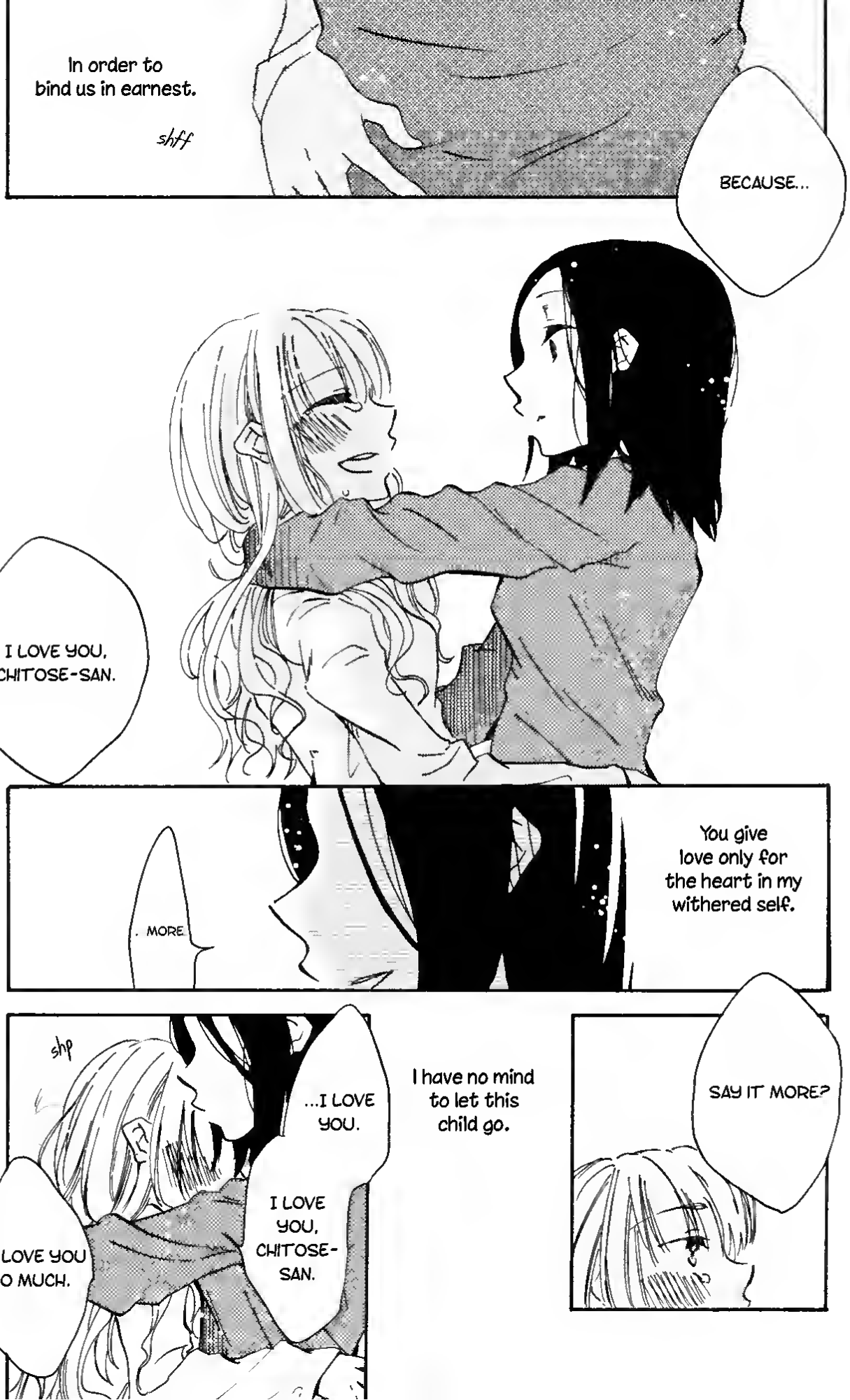

Our age gap is wide enough that we're liable to be taken in-
I understand these things.

And yet...

And she's
a friend of that child's...

...SAA-CHAN?
flap

WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
SAYURI...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO HATE ME.
IF I'D MADE YOU MAD, I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE...
ka-chak
No matter how I prevaricate,
SILLY THING...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS...?
clasp
Her tears, if nothing else, are precious. She sparkles and shines, and I want her.
I CAN'T GIVE YOU WHAT YOU'RE WISHING FOR, YOU KNOW?
So I'll prepare in advance a path of retreat...
THAT'S OKAY


In order to bind us in earnest.
shff
BECAUSE...
I LOVE YOU, CHITOSE-SAN.
. MORE
You give love only for the heart in my withered self.
shp
...I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU, CHITOSE-SAN.
...I LOVE YOU SO MUCH.
I have no mind to let this child go.
SAY IT MORE?

.....
But I won't state my own feelings openly.
CHITOSE-SA...
Let them say it's under-handed,
I'll draw her desires out and react to them.
WHAT IS IT?
SPEAK CLEARLY.
UM...
I MEAN... NEXT TIME-
but to you go thoughts lurking in dazzlingly deep darkness and adults' underhandedness...

un bouquet de fleurs pour vous.